

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3523

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SUBJECT: HIDALGO STATE AND PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

REF: MEXICO 9387 (NOV 5, 1974)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FEUD BETWEEN OUTGOING HIDALGO GOVERNOR SANCHEZ VITE AND SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA RECENTLY REACHED NEW PROPORTIONS OF PUBLIC ATTACKS AND PRIVATE ASSAULTS. SANCHEZ ATTACKS HAVE ALSO INCLUDED TWO OTHER PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS, SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM GOMEZ VILLANUEVA AND SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTOR GALVEZ BETANCOURT. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS SANCHEZ MAY BE SUPPORTING PRESIDENCY SECRETARY CERVANTES DEL RIO. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, MOYA PALENCIA IS EXPECTING CONFLICT TO BE RESOLVED IN HIS FAVOR, AND IN DRAMATIC FASHION. END SUMMARY.

1. REFERENCE DESCRIBED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN STATE OF HIDALGO CIRCA LAST OCT-NOV, WHEN OUTGOING GOV AND FORMER PRI (RULING PARTY) PRESIDENT MANUEL SANCHEZ VITE PUBLICLY ATTACKED SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MARIO MOYA PALENCIA AND THEN SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THE PRI NAME SANCHEZ'S CHOICE AS ITS GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE.

2. SINCE THAT REPORT, THE PRI CANDIDATE, ONTONIEL MIRANDA ANDRADE, WON ELECTION (AGAINST NO OPPOSITION, AS CANDIDATES FROM ALL THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE REFUSED REGISTRATION
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FOR ONE OR ANOTHER TECHNICAL REASON) AND WAS INAUGURATED

APRIL 1. IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH MIRANDA CRITICIZED STRONGLY THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRARIAN REFORM, HARDLY THE USUAL THEME OF INAUGURAL SPEECHES.

3. ON APRIL 10-11, THREE PAID POLITICAL ADS APPEARED IN MEXICO CITY PRESS, SIGNED BY HIDALGO CHAPTERS OF CNOP (POPULAR SECTOR OF PRI), CNC (PRI AGRARIAN SECTOR) AND NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION (SNTE). ALL THREE ATTACKED MOYA PALENCIA, SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM GOMEZ VILLANUEVA AND DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE CARLOS GALVEZ BETANCOURT IN VIRULENT, MOCKING LANGUAGE. THEY ACCUSED MOYA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DEATH OF COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER HILARIO MORENO (SEE MEXICO 772) AND GOMEZ VILLANUEVA OF INCOMPETENCE. ONE ADDED MOCKING ADVICE TO MOYA - "DON'T BE TOO SURE OF (GALVEZ'S) SUPPORT - WHILE YOU'RE IN THE RING FIGHTING, HE MAY GRAB THE PRIZE."

4. AD RUN BY SNTE HAS HAD FURTHER REPERCUSSIONS. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF SNTE EXPELLED HIDALGO LEADER WHO SIGNED AD; SNTE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (INCLUDING A FEDERAL DEPUTY) WERE THEN ASSAULTED IN PACHUCA (STATE CAPITAL) APRIL 18. FOLLOWING DAY FEDERAL SENATOR FROM HIDALGO LOZANO RAMIREZ PUBLICLY ATTRIBUTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADS AND PHYSICAL ASSAULTS TO NEW GOVERNOR, AS PUPPET OF SANCHEZ VITE. ON APRIL 22 ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA ANNOUNCED INVESTIGATION OF ASSAULT ON SNTE MEMBERS. EXCELSIOR SAME DAY FEATURED ARTICLE ON TWO OF ITS REPORTERS WHO WERE BEATEN IN PACHUCA.

5. ALSO ON APRIL 22, EMBASSY CONTACT WHO WORKS FOR HIDALGO POLITICIAN (HUMBERTO LUGO GIL) WHO HAD HOPED TO GET PRI GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION, TOLD EMBOFF THAT SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MOYA PALENCIA TOLD LUGO AND OTHERS TO "BE READY FOR CHANGES" IN HIDALGO. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY CONTACT, SNTE WOULD ORGANIZE STATEWIDE TEACHERS' STRIKE, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO LOCAL LEGISLATURE DECLARING GOVERNOR'S POWERS "DISAPPEARED", AS IN CASE OF GUERRERO GOVERNOR NOGUEDA (EXCEPT, IN LATTER CASE, FEDERAL LEGISLATURE ACTED).

6. CONTACT COMMENTED THAT ONE REASON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

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MIGHT HAVE ALLOWED SANCHEZ VITE TO ATTACK MOYA AND "GET AWAY WITH IT" LAST OCTOBER, WAS THAT AT THAT TIME IT LOOKED LIKE MOYA HAD THE PRI NOMINATION WRAPPED UP. "AFTER HIDALGO, PEOPLE WERE SAYING 'PERHAPS IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'."

7. COMMENT: IF PRESIDENT'S MOTIVATION LAST OCTOBER WAS TO EVEN UP THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE, APRIL WOULD SEEM STILL TOO EARLY TO HAVE EVENTS REVERSE THEMSELVES.

NONETHELESS, HIDALGO SPECTACLE HAS REACHED RATHER EXTREME PROPORTIONS AND IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW TWO SIDES CAN NOW BACK AWAY FROM JOINED BATTLE. OUSTER OF MIRANDA IS A POSSIBILITY, AND IF IT OCCURED, WOULD BE CLEAR SHOW OF MOYA'S STRENGTH, AND ON THIS ISSUE AT LEAST, PRESIDENTIAL BACKING.

NO ONE HAS PUBLICLY SAID WHOM SANCHEZ VITE AND MIRANDA ARE WORKING FOR, BUT CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE POINTS TO SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY CERVANTES DEL RIO, WHO ATTENDED CEREMONY IN SANCHEZ'S HONOR IN FEBRUARY AND WHO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN HIDALGO.

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